

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 844

By Moon

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Hung Manh Nguyen of Maryville.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Hung Manh Nguyen, a man of determination whose sacrifice made it possible for his family to see a better future; and

WHEREAS, orphaned as a boy, Mr. Nguyen educated himself and became a high-ranking officer in the South Vietnamese army; and

WHEREAS, after the war, the Communist Party of Vietnam stripped South Vietnamese officers and their families of wealth; Mr. Nguyen and his family were sent to re-education camps, which were located in the most remote and uninhabitable parts of Vietnam, where thousands died from sickness and starvation; and

WHEREAS, while he scouted for a way out of their unfortunate situation, Mr. Nguyen and his family survived by fishing and growing a small garden; he eventually obtained a contract for digging ditches with the government, which provided a livelihood for his family and several dozen other families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nguyen built a network of alliances who helped him secure an escape boat from Vietnam. On the night of escape, his eldest son rowed the women and children to the waiting boat with the intention of coming back for the men; unfortunately, the men were left behind as soldiers had already descended upon the beach; and

WHEREAS, after his capture, Mr. Nguyen was tortured in prison for more than a year; following his release from prison, he was reunited with his family in Maryville with the help of New Providence Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nguyen worked as a custodian for Maryville High School until the time of his retirement; he and his wife also operated a successful restaurant in Maryville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nguyen was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife, Tue Banh; and

WHEREAS, he leaves to mourn his memory his eight children, three daughters-in-law, three sons-in-law, twelve grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, three sisters, and five cousins; and

WHEREAS, a charismatic, determined, ingenious, and resilient man, Mr. Nguyen will be best remembered as a giving man with a lively personality and as a loving and indulgent grandfather; and

WHEREAS, Hung Nguyen leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Hung Manh Nguyen, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Nguyen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.